AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus comprising:

a sound source storing <u>folders, wherein at least one of the folders includes albums, and at least one of the albums includes</u> music files<u>, and wherein the folders, the albums, and the music files are arranged</u> in a hierarchical manner;

playback unit specification means for specifying a unit <u>as any one of a folder, an album, and a music file,</u> for use in selecting music file groups, ~~wherein each music file group comprises at least one music file~~;

music file group selection means for randomly selecting a music file group <u>in accordance with the specified unit</u>; and

playback means for reproducing the music files included in the selected music file group before reproducing <u>the</u> music files that are not in the selected musical file group.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback apparatus according to claim <u>1</u> [[2]], further comprising:

album selection means for randomly selecting [[said]] an album from [[said]] the selected music file group, if [[said]] the playback unit specification means specifies the folder is specified by said playback unit specification means;

wherein [[said]] the playback means reproduces the music files for each selected album.

4.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

selected area specification means for specifying [[an]] a selected area of [[said]] the music file group.

5.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said sound source records a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner and said the selected area specification means is capable of specifying any one of [[said]] an album, [[said]] a folder, and all areas of [[said]] the sound source.

6.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the playback means sequentially reproduces the music files included in [[said]] the selected music file group in the order of their recording.

7.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the playback means randomly reproduces music files included in [[said]] the selected music file group.

8.   (Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus comprising:

a sound source storing folders, wherein at least one of the folders includes albums, and at least one of the albums includes music files, and wherein the folders, the albums, and the music files are arranged in a hierarchical order albums, an album being unit of a set of music files;

album selection means for randomly selecting an album one of the albums to be reproduced from the sound source; and

playback means for reproducing the music files in the selected album before reproducing music files that are not in the selected album.

9.   (Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus comprising:

a sound source storing folders, wherein at least one of the folders includes albums, and at least one of the albums includes music files, and wherein the folders, the albums, and the music files are arranged in a hierarchical manner folders, each folder storing an album being a unit of a set of music files;

folder selection means for randomly selecting a folder one of the folders to be reproduced from the sound source; and

playback means for reproducing the music files in the selected folder before reproducing music files that are not in the selected folder.

10.   (Currently Amended) An audio playback method comprising the steps of:

specifying, in a sound source ~~storing music files in a hierarchical manner~~, a unit

as any one of a folder, an album, and a music file, for use in selecting [[a]] music file

groups, ~~group, wherein each musical file group comprises at least one music file;~~

wherein the sound source stores folders, at least one of the folders including

albums, and at least one of the albums including music files, and wherein the folders,

the albums, and the music files are arranged in a hierarchical manner;

randomly selecting [[said]] a music file group in accordance with the specified

unit; and

reproducing the music files included in the selected music file group before

reproducing music files that are not in the selected musical file group.

11.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback method according to claim 10,

further comprising the step of:

specifying [[an]] a selected area of [[said]] the music file group.

12.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback method according to claim 10,

wherein [[said]] the playback step randomly reproduces [[said]] the music files included

in [[said]] the selected music file group.

13.   (Currently Amended) The audio playback method according to claim 10,

further comprising the step of:

randomly selecting ~~an album~~ one of the albums from [[said]] the selected music

file group if~~, from said sound source recording a folder, an album formed in said folder,~~

~~and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner, said~~ a folder is specified

in [[said]] the playback unit specification step;

wherein [[said]] the playback step reproduces music files for each selected

album.

14.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable media storing a computer

program that causes a processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

specifying, in a sound source ~~storing music files in a hierarchical manner~~, a unit

as any one of a folder, an album, and a music file, for use in selecting [[a]] music file

groups, ~~group, wherein each musical file group comprises at least one music file;~~

wherein the sound source stores folders, at least one of the folders including

albums, and at least one of the albums including music files, and wherein the folders,

the albums, and the music files are arranged in a hierarchical manner;

randomly selecting a music file group in accordance with the specified unit; and

reproducing the music files included in the selected music file group before

reproducing music files that are not in the selected musical file group.

15.   (Currently Amended) The media according to claim 14, wherein the

method further comprises:

specifying [[an]] a selected area of said music file group.

16.   (Currently Amended) The media according to claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

randomly selecting [[said]] an album from [[said]] the selected music file group ~~selected by said music file group selection function~~ if, ~~from said sound source recording a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner, said~~ a folder is specified by said playback unit specification function;

wherein [[said]] the playback function reproduces music files for each selected album.

17.   (New) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

mode selection means for selecting a first or second reproducing mode through a user interface, wherein the first reproducing mode allows for random playback on an album basis and the second reproducing mode allows for random playback on an individual music file basis.

18.   (New) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a touch screen user interface.

19.   (New) The audio playback method according to claim 10, further comprising:

selecting a first or second reproducing mode through a user interface, wherein

the first reproducing mode allows for random playback on an album basis and the

second reproducing mode allows for random playback on an individual music file basis.

20.   (New) The audio playback method according to claim 10, further

comprising:

receiving a user input by a touch screen.